Import of fruits and vegetables

1092. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables imported during the last three years, variety-wise;

(b) the names of the countries from which these fruits/vegetables are imported;

(c) whether these variety of fruits/vegetables are available in the country; and

(d) if so, the compelling reasons for importing these fruits/vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The details of quantity of fruits and vegetables imported from the various countries during the last three years, country-wise variety-wise and value-wise, are contained in the publication "Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India: Volume-II (Imports) - Annual Number" published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which is available in the library of the Parliament.

(c) and (d) some of the fruits and vegetables being imported in the country may not be indigenously available. Domestic production of any commodity is seldom a ground for imposing restriction on import of such commodities. The Quantitative Restrictions on imports, which were earlier maintained on balance of payment grounds have been removed in line with the economic liberalization policy and also in accordance with the Country's commitment to multilateral trading regime.

Crisis in plantation sector

1093. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the problems of plantation workers due to falling prices and crisis in plantation sector;

(b) whether price stabilization fund is operational as a package of measures announced for revival; and